

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Claims 1-33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claims 35-47. (Canceled).

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) An expression plasmid comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 34, ~~41, or 42.~~

Claim 49. (Previously Presented) A host cell comprising the expression plasmid of claim 48.

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a recombinant protein, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 49 under conditions sufficient for the production of said protein and recovering said protein.

Claims 51-57. (Canceled).

Claim 58. (Currently Amended) An ~~The~~ isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 41,~~ comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5; and
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:10,

wherein said polynucleotide specifically hybridizes with a complement of a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

under conditions of a buffer comprising 45%(v/v) formamide, 5x SSPE, at 42°C, and washing after hybridization with a buffer comprising 2xSSPE at 42°C,

and said polynucleotide encodes a protein having the biological activity of inhibiting neurite outgrowth from dorsal root ganglion cells.

Claim 59. (Currently Amended) An ~~The~~ isolated nucleic acid molecule of ~~claim 42~~, comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5; and

(b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:10,

wherein said polynucleotide specifically hybridizes with a complement of a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and

(b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

under conditions of a buffer comprising 45%(v/v) formamide, 5x SSPE, at 42°C, and washing after hybridization with a buffer comprising 2xSSPE, at 42°C,

and said polynucleotide encodes a protein having the biological activity of collapsing growth cones of retinal ganglion cells.

Claims 60-61. (Canceled).

Claim 62. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:5 operatively linked in the 5' to 3' direction,

wherein said polynucleotide encodes a protein having the biological activity of inhibiting neurite outgrowth from dorsal

root ganglion cells.

Claim 63. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:5 operatively linked in the 5' to 3' direction,

wherein said polynucleotide encodes a protein having the biological activity of collapsing growth cones of retinal ganglion cells.

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